

ATTACHMENT 1

8 December 1982

0850 Hours

DCI Position on Fifth Orbiter Issue

The DCI position is that our programs alone do not require a fifth orbiter. From a national perspective, however, we are concerned about our current lack of understanding of the long-term operability of the STS and the potential impact of attrition. Because of this, the need exists to ensure that the U.S. can adequately maintain an operational four orbiter fleet. This requires some reserve capacity to cope with unforeseen contingencies and a capability to repair an orbiter after a major incident. Given these needs, we do not believe it is wise to allow the STS orbiter production base to be shut down completely. Alternative 2, by maintaining limited orbiter production capability, will preserve the nation's flexibility to respond to future needs at a modest additional cost compared to Alternative 1. Alternative 2 is our recommended choice.

CONFIDENTIAL